

State - New York

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Name of Project - Occupational Health and Surveillance in New York – Fundamental Program

Brief Overview of Project

Supports general occupational surveillance activities including the occupational health indicators, Occupational Health Clinic Network, Occupational Lung Disease Registry, Heavy Metals Registry, and special projects.

Major Accomplishments and Outputs (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

Occupational Health Indicators

- The [New York State Community Health Data Set](#), which includes pneumoconiosis, asbestosis and work-related hospitalizations, elevated blood lead levels among adults (≥ 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$), were updated for 2006-2008, and published to the web.
- [County health assessment indicators](#) (malignant mesothelioma, hospitalizations from or with pneumoconioses and asbestosis, work-related hospitalizations, elevated blood lead levels among adults (>10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ and >25 $\mu\text{g/dL}$), and fatal work-related injuries) have also been updated for the years 2006-2008 and published to the web.

NYS Occupational Health Clinic Network

- A [report](#) describing trends, accomplishments and future plans has been published.
- An oversight committee has been established with plans to produce recommendations in Winter 2011.

Occupational Lung Disease Registry (OLDR)

- Gelberg KH, Brissette I, Cummings K. Evaluation of a Communications Campaign to Increase Physician Reporting to a Surveillance System. *Accepted for publication: Public Health Reports, January 2011.*
- Tice CJ, Cummings K, Gelberg KH. Surveillance of Work-related Asthma in NYS. *Journal of Asthma*, 2010.; Vol 47(3):310-316.
- A chapter of work-related asthma was included in the *New York State Asthma Surveillance Summary Report*, October 2009.

Heavy Metals Registry (HMR)

- Zhu M, Fitzgerald EF, Gelberg KH, Lin S, Druschel C. Maternal low-level lead exposure and fetal growth. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, online 21 June 2010
- Gelberg KH, Fletcher A. Adult Blood Lead Reporting in New York State – 1994 to 2006. *Public Health Reports*, 2010; Vol 125(1):103-110.
- Franko E. New Rules for Lead-Safe Remodeling. *Journal of Light Construction* 2009:61-64.
- Reduced blood lead levels for interviews to 10 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ for women of childbearing age and to 15 $\mu\text{g/dL}$ for all others. A program review has been conducted evaluating the benefits of this action.

Special Projects

- A *Young Workers Initiative* has been established with developing a committee from State Labor, NYCOSH, NY State United Teachers, Stated Education, the Workers' Compensation Board, OSHA, the Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern New York, and State Health. This initiative is bringing the *Passport to Safety*, an on-line training course, to NYS as a pilot project.
- The following information was presented at the 2010 CSTE meeting: “Survey respondents understanding of pre-defined industry categories: Can they relate them correctly to their own job?”. State and federal partners requested further information regarding this presentation to assist in questionnaire designs requesting industry from the respondents.

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Name of Project - Occupational Health and Surveillance in New York – World Trade Center Responders Fatality Investigation Program (WTCRFI)

Brief Overview of Project

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is the data collection center for fatalities occurring among World Trade Center (WTC) responders and volunteers. Information is collected on any death that has occurred to any responder or volunteer who worked at the WTC site between 9/11/2001 and 6/30/2002 and died between 9/12/2001 and 6/30/2009. This information includes decedent's demographics, reported cause of death, health status prior to and after WTC, details of WTC exposure, and autopsy results.

Major Accomplishments and Outputs (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

- Data collection is completed with 836 deaths identified and 813 confirmed through death certificates, autopsy reports, medical records or media reports.
- Proportionate Mortality Ratios, Standardized Mortality Ratios standardized to age and sex, and Standardized Mortality Odds Ratios analyses are currently being conducted.
- Capture-recapture analyses have been conducted indicating approximately 53% case ascertainment.
- NYS Department of Health participates in meetings with other programs examining the WTC responder population. These include the NYC Mayors Medical Working Group, and special meetings organized to discuss methodologic issues for examining cancer outcomes.
- Current data is presented on the NYSDOH webpage at:
http://www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/investigations/wtc/health_studies/fatality_investigation.htm

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Name of Project - Occupational Health and Surveillance in New York – Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE)

Brief Overview of Project

NYFACE investigates work-related fatalities where appropriate prevention methods or materials are not available.

Major Accomplishments and Outputs (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

- [*Chainsaw Safety for Home Owners*](#) was distributed to 1,500 farmers, loggers, landscapers, foresters, utility workers, trade school students, homeowners, public sector employees, safety and health consultants, occupational health clinics and governmental organizations.
- [*Logging Safety: A Field Guide*](#) was pilot tested by NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS Parks) with the Game of Logging. Dissemination of approximately 4,000 copies was coordinated with the NY Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH), Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY Logging Training, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), the Association of Towns of the State of NY, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), NYS Parks, NYS Thruway Authority, NYS Department of Labor, Federal Correctional Institution in Ray Brook, NIOSH and OSHA.
- NY FACE conducted hazard assessment at three ski areas. Posters were presented on snowmaking operations, the hazards associated with the operations and the safety and injury prevention measures at *2009 I Ski NY Expo* that was sponsored by Ski Areas of New York (SANY), Pennsylvania Ski Areas Association (PSAA), National Sky Areas Association (NSAA), and Hunter Mountain. Approximately 300 contractors, vendors and managers and employees of ski areas attended the Expos. NY FACE staff also participated in the seminars and discussion sessions of risk management in ski areas and employee training. In addition, *TURN IT WHITE ... SAFELY* was published in the SANY newsletter.
- The following reports and fact sheets were published: [*Fatal Injuries among Animal Handlers in NYS*](#), [*Mechanic Killed when Aerial Work Platform Collapses*](#), [*Day Laborer at Boat Dock Drowns after Falling into River*](#), [*Contractor Crushed against the Cab of Dump Truck by the Dump Body*](#)

Impact and Significance

- NYSDEC awards contracts for harvesting State forests. These contracts range from less than \$500 (firewood sale) to over \$100,000. While NYSDEC required logging safety training for contractors holding contracts valued \$500 or greater, it did not require logging safety training for the contracts less than \$500. Following the NY FACE recommendations, NYSDEC agreed to add language in contracts less than \$500 to require the contractors to receive, read and understand *Logging Safety: A Field Guide*. By requiring the contractors holding contracts less than \$500 to study the Field Guides, NYSDEC helps to deliver the critical

injury prevention knowledge to those contractors who need the knowledge the most. The requirement is now effective statewide.

- NY FACE received positive feedback from individuals who received the *Logging Safety: A Field Guide* stating that this information should be provided to anyone who buys a chainsaw. A logging teacher/instructor at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES stated it was important to provide this to all students.
- The NY FACE brochure *Chainsaw Safety for Homeowners* received positive feedback from recipients including NIOSH, New Jersey FACE, Iowa FACE, Syracuse Occupational Health Clinic, Ski Areas of New York and OSHA Tarrytown Office. The NYCAMY considered it an excellent brochure with clear and practical safety measures that would be very useful for preventing tree work injuries among farm population. A Safety Specialist of Broome County Office of Risk and Insurance Management commented that the brochure contained crucial safety message that the public needed badly.
- NY FACE report “*Construction Laborer Dies after Falling off Collapsed Precast Concrete Floor Slab*” was featured in the NIOSH December eNews and in the November News by PP Construction Safety (PPCS) website in Great Britain. PPCS is a health and safety information and consultancy service. PPCS commented that the NY FACE report provided more detail and insight than similar reports available in Great Britain and “will be of interest to all those involved with the design and installation of precast concrete floors”.
- A copy of “*Construction Laborer Dies after Falling off Collapsed Precast Concrete Floor Slab*” was provided to the Project Manager of American Steel & Precast Erectors (ASPE) which specialized in precast concrete construction. The company located outside of NYS just completed two precast projects in New York. The Project Manager stated that he was impressed by the detailed technical information and the project history presented in the report. He planned on using the report for new employee orientation and toolbox talks.
- Upon receiving “*Construction Laborer Dies after Falling off Collapsed Precast Concrete Floor Slab*”, the Director of Architectural Systems of Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) asked NY FACE staff to review the PCI Safety Manual and comment on whether the Manual adequately addressed the specific safety issues discussed in the report. PCI is an industry organization that establishes consensus industry standards and practices for operations using precast/prestressed concrete products. PCI standards are used by OSHA for enforcement. PCI is in the process of updating the Manual. NY FACE proposed seven revisions of the Manual.
- NY FACE provided information and injury prevention products to the Outreach Coordinator and trainer of Central New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health (CNYCOSH). CNYCOSH is a not-for-profit organization providing comprehensive as well as general awareness training and education to workers to reduce the risks of work-related injuries. The information was immediately shared with all CNYCOSH members and will be used for developing safety and health presentations and training materials.
- NY FACE investigation reports *Truck Driver Buried by Mulch at Town Solid Waste Site* and *Crane Boom Collapse Kills Man during Disassembling* were featured in the monthly column FACEValue of the National Safety Council (NSC) Magazine “Safety+Health”. The NSC is a non-for-profit international public service organization that has members representing 18,600 companies with 8.8 million employees from a broad spectrum of industries in 33,300 locations around the world. Its mission is to educate and influence people to prevent accidental injuries and deaths.

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Name of Project - Occupational Health and Surveillance in New York – Pesticide Poisoning Registry

Brief Overview of Project

The Pesticide Poisoning Registry (PPR) was established in 1990 and requires a) physicians and health facilities to report suspected or confirmed pesticide poisonings, and b) clinical laboratories to report depressed acetylcholinesterase results, indicative of some pesticide exposures, within 48 hours. Intervention is structured around individual reports. These may indicate an unanticipated hazard of a new product or the first report of a cluster of cases. The interview is an opportunity to discuss the hazards of pesticides, and ways to reduce or eliminate exposure through IPM, product substitution or use of protective equipment. In cases of occupational exposures or clusters, an industrial hygiene consultation is available.

Major Accomplishments and Outputs (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

- *The Landlord and Tenant Guide to Pest Management* has been completed and submitted for posting to the NYSDOH web site.
- There were 88 pesticide poisonings investigated; 53 were considered cases (Status codes of Definite, Probable, Possible or Suspicious).
- Staff is collaborating with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on poisonings due to rodent baits and due to the use of Total Release Foggers.
- NYSDOH has been added to the National Poison Data System. Data from three of the five Poison Control Centers in NYS is now available with signed Memorandums of Understanding.
- NYS PPR cases related to fipronil exposure were collected per a national request. Fipronil is a broad use insecticide used to control ants, beetles, cockroaches, fleas, ticks, termites and other insects. There is relatively little human toxicity data on fipronil, contrasted by the relatively large number of illness reports.
- NYS PPR staff collaborated with the Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) project coordination regarding occupational pesticide poisonings, particularly those occurring among farm workers.